Word Studies in Genesis One

by Hugh Ross, Ph. D.

Genesis One

1. In the beginning God[1] created[2] the heavens[5] and the earth[20]. 2. Now the earth[2O] was formless and empty[7], darkness was over the surface of the deep[8], and the Spirit[9] of God[1] was hovering[21] over the waters. 3. And God[1] said, "Let there[3] be light," and there was light. 4. God[1] saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5. God[1] called the light "day"[19] and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the first day[19]. 6. And God[1] said, "Let there[3] be an expanse[10] between the waters to separate water from water." 7. So God[1] made[4] the expanse[10] and separated the water under the expanse[10] from the water above it. And it was so. 8. God[1] called the expanse[10] "sky[5]." And there was evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the second day[19]. 9. And God[1] said, "Let[3] the water under the sky[5] be[3] gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear[24]." And it was so. 10. God[1] called the dry ground "land" and the gathered waters he called the "seas." And God[1] saw that it was good. 11. Then God[1] said, "Let the land produce[25] vegetation[26]; seed[11]-bearing plants[29] and trees[12] on the land that bear fruit[13] with seed[11] in it, according to their various kinds[27]." And it was so. 12. The land produced[28] vegetation[26]: plants[29] bearing seed[11] according to their kinds[27] and trees[12] bearing fruit[13] with seed[11] in it according to their kinds[27]. And God[1] saw that it was good. 13. And there was

evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the third day[19]. 14. And God[1] said, "Let there[3] be lights[30] in the expanse[10] of the sky[5] to separate the day[19] from the night, and let them serve as signs[31] to mark seasons and days[19] and years. 15. And let there[3] be lights[30] in the expanse[10] of the sky[5] to give light on the earth[20]." And it was so. 16. God[1] made[4] two great lights[30]... the greater light[30] to govern the day [19] and the lesser light[30] to govern the night. He also made[4] the stars. 17. God[1] set[14] them in the expanse[10] of the sky[5] to give light on the earth[20], 18. to govern the day[19] and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God[1] saw that it was good. 19. And there was evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the fourth day[19]. 20. And God[1] said, "Let the water teem with living creatures[15], and let birds fly above the earth[20] across the expanse[10] of the sky[5]." 21. So God[1] created[2] the great creatures[16] of the sea and every livingl[7] and moving thing[17] with which the water teems, according to their kinds[27], and every winged bird according to its kind[27]. And God[1] saw that it was good. 22. God[1] blessed them and said, "Be3 fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth[20]." 23. And there was the evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the fifth day[19]. 24. And God[1] said, "Let the land produce[28] living creatures[17] according to their kinds[27]: livestock[32], creatures[33] that move along the ground, and wild aniaals[34], each according to its kind[27]." And it was so. 25. God[1] made[4] the wild animals[34] according to their kinds[27], the livestock[32] according to their kinds[27], and all the creatures[33] that move along the ground according to their kinds[27]. And God[1] saw that it was good. 26. Then God[1] said, "Let us make[4] man[18] in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock[32], over all the earth, and over all the creatures[33] that move along the ground." 27. So God[1] created[2] man[18] in his own image, in the image of God[1] he created[2] him; male and female he created them. 28. God[1] blessed them and said to them, "Be[3] fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth[20] and subdue[35] it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature[34] that moves on the ground." 29. Then God[1] said, "I give you every seed[11]-bearing plant[29] on the face of the whole earth[20] and every tree that has fruit

with seed[11] in it. They will be yours for food. 30. And to all the beasts[34] of the earth[20] and all the birds of the air and all the creatures[33] that move on the ground... everything that has the breath of life in it ...I give every green[29] plant for food." And it was so. 31. God[1] saw all that He had made[4], and it was very good. And there was evening[22], and there was morning[23]... the sixth day[19]. Thus the heavens[5] and the earth[20] were completed in all their vast array.

Definitions

1. ELOHIYM (plural of *Eloahh):* the deity; the supreme Being; the true God

-a compound word composed of *El* (the strong one), and *Alah* (to bind oneself by an oath); hence, *Elohim* = the mighty and faithful one

-*a* uni-plural noun; thus, Elohiym latently implies the Trinity

-the only name used for God in Genesis One; this name is used about 2,500 times in the Old Testament

2. BARA: bring forth something that is radically new; produce that which is new, extraordinary, and/or epochal; produce through supernatural activity

3. HAYAH: become; cause to appear or arise; cause to be made or done; come into existence; come to pass; make into something

4. ASAH: produce; manufacture; fabricate

5. SHAMAYIM (p1.), shameh (sing.): visible dome of the sky above and in which the clouds move; the realm in which the celestial bodies move; the spiritual realm in which God and the angels dwell and operate

-with respect to the above definitions, the Hebrews referred to the three heavens (cf. 2 Cor. 12:2); whenever *shamayim* is used with the *erets*(earth), as in 1:1, the

combination refers to the entire physical universe

6. TOHUW: desolated; worthless; wasteness; useless; incapable of being utilized

7. BOHUW: empty; void; devoid of existence

8. TEHOM: a great mass of water; the oceans and the seas

9. RUWACH: spirit; breath; wind.

- in conjunction with *Elohiym* refers to the Holy Spirit

10. RAQIYA: (apparently) visible dome of the sky; (technically, the atmosphere immediately above the surface of the earth)

11. ZERA: embryos of plants, trees, grasses, etc., i.e., the embryos of any plant species

12. ETS: any large plant containing woody fiber

13. PERIY: fod and/or embryos produced by any living thing

14. NATHAN: set; put; place; appoint; bring forth; apply; ascribe; set forth; send out; show; trust; bestow; cause to appear; charge; commit; deliver

15. SHERETS: swarm of small or minute animals

16. TANNIYM: great or large sea animal; monster

17. NEPHESH: vital animals, i.e., animals that clearly manifest the soulish attributes of mind, will, and emotion

18. ADAM: human being; the human race; i.e., animals that clearly manifest spirit attributes. NOTE: there is no evidence for a spirit dimension for the pre-Adamic hominids

19. YOWM: sunrise to sunset; sunset to sunset; a space of time (defined by an associated term); an age; time or period (without any reference to solar days)

20. ERETS: the planet Earth; a land, a country, or a continent; lands, countries, kingdoms or regions

21. RACHAPH: to brood over, cherishing and vivifying; to be tenderly affected; to be moved

22. EREB: the beginning of darkness; dusk, twilight, or nightfall; closing, ending or completion

23. BOCER: the breaking forth of light; dawn, daybreak or morning; dawning, beginning, or origin

24. RAAH: be seen; appear; show forth, cause one to see; to be perceived or beheld; to be considered

25. DASHA: to bring forth herbage; to sprout; to bring forth

26. DESHE: new vegetation; young plants

27. MIYN: species; life4orm

28. YATSA: germinate, bring forth; produce; spring forth; promulgate; to cause to come forth; issue out; proceed

29. ESEB: green plant(s)

30. MAOWR: a luminous body; brightness; light

31. OWTH: signal; sign, measuring mark; token, omen; evidence

32. BEHEMOWTH: large land quadrupeds

33. REMES: rapidly moving vertebrates; rodents and reptiles

34. CHAY: wild mammals; a multitude or mob; that which is lively or fresh

35. KABASH: subject; subdue; subjugate

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